

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 are currently pending in the application; new Claims 6-17 having been added by way of the present response. Applicants respectfully assert that support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and that therefore no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action the specification was objected to, and Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,719,751 to Kume et al. (Kume).

With regard to the objection to the specification, Applicants have amended the specification in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

As stated above Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kume. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to a method for forcibly regenerating a catalytic regeneration type particulate filter in an exhaust pipe through which exhaust gas flows. Independent Claim 1 recites adding fuel to the exhaust gas upstream of the particulate filter, the added fuel being oxidized on a flow-through type oxidation catalyst before the particulate filter to produce exothermic heat with which captured and accumulated particulates in the particulate filter are burned off, thereby forcibly regenerating the particulate filter. The claim further recites in light-load engine operation areas upon forcible regeneration of the particulate filter, intentionally increasing an engine load by load adding means and increasing

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an amount of fuel injected so as to compensate reduced torque due to the increased engine load.

Kume is directed to a diesel particulate oxidizer regeneration system. Applicants respectfully assert that Kume does not teach or render obvious however the claimed features of regenerating a filter by intentionally increasing an engine load by load adding means as recited in independent Claim 1. Rather, Applicants respectfully assert that the portions of Kume noted in the Office Action at most teach retarding injection timing to regenerate a diesel particulate collecting member, rather than the claimed features of intentionally increasing an engine load by load adding means.¹

Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that Kume is not directed to subject matter of the present application, including regenerating a filter by intentionally increasing an engine load by load adding means and increasing an amount of fuel injected so as to compensate reduced torque due to the increased engine load, with a retarder, for example, as discussed in the specification and as recited in the claims.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn, and the allowance of independent Claim 1.

Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 2-5 are allowable for the same reasons as independent Claim 1 from which they depend, as well as for their own features. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of dependent Claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn, and the allowance of dependent Claims 2-5.

Applicants respectfully assert that new independent Claim 6, as well as new Claims 7-17 depending therefrom, is allowable for reasons similar to those of independent Claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of new Claims 6-17.

¹ Column 1, lines 35-41; Column 13, lines 40-46; Column 19, lines 59-65; and from Column 37 line 67 to Column 38, line 10.

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Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-17 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

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Respectfully submitted,

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